

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested cancellation of the non-elected claims. Claims 12-21 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Chalfant (U.S. Patent No. 3,631,450). Claims 1-3 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Harris Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,972,379). Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(a or e) as being anticipated by Lyon et al. (U.S. Application Publication No. 2004/0004905). Claims 4-5 and 22 were objected to as being allowable if amended into independent form. Claims 9-11 and 23 were allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-3 and 6-8, including independent claim 1.

Impendent claim 1 recites an ultrasound transmit and/or receive path connected with a beamformer, and a clipping diode and switch separate from the path. Chalfant, Harris Jr., and Lyon et al. do not disclose these limitations.

Chalfant discloses an alarm clock with a loudspeaker (Col. 1, lines 4-8 and Col. 1, line 71- Col. 2, line 2). Such a device does not include a beamformer even if ultrasound was generated by the speaker. The diode 40 and switch 12 (see Fig. 2) are part of the path, not separate from the path.

Harris Jr. discloses a sonic echo simulator (abstract). There is no disclosure of a beamformer connected with an ultrasound path. The Examiner does not cite to any switch between a clipping diode and a voltage source. The rectifying diode is part of the transmit and receive path, so is not separate from the path.

Lyon et al. disclose a time-of-flight ranging system (abstract). A single transducer is shown (Fig. 1), so there is no disclosure of a beamformer connected with the ultrasound path. The diodes 34 separate transmit and receive signals (paragraph 21), so the diodes 34 are in the path. The diodes are not separate from the path.

Dependent claims 2-3 and 6-8 depend from independent claim 1, so are allowable for the same reasons. Further limitations distinguish from the cited references. Claim 6 recites a double pole relay. Chalfant and Lyon et al. do not disclose a double pole relay. Claim 7 recites the switch operable to select between connecting the clipping diode with the voltage source at transmit and an ADC for calibration. Lyons et al. do not disclose these switching options. Claim 8 recites a current source. Lyons et al. do not disclose a current source.

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended into independent form without the amendments to claim 1.

Claims 4 and 5 were objected to as allowable with these amendments.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 943-7554 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

PLEASE MAIL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Respectfully submitted,

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